June 30 deadline set for reporting crops

By TOM CONRAD

Fire, flue and sun-cured tobacco producers and corn, grain sorghum and soybean producers should remember June 30 is the deadline for reporting planted acreages of these crops.

Failure to report tobacco acreage will result in no price support and failure to report corn, grain sorghum and soybean acreage will mean that a grain producer will not be eligible for disaster payments, deficiency payments or commodity loans.

All tobacco farms whether there is planted acreages or not need to report. If there is zero planted acreage, then the farmer needs to report zero. If no report is made, the farm's allotment will be reduced to zero next year.

Both the tobacco and the grain program are entirely separate from each other and eligibility in one is not affected by eligibility in the other. The important thing to remember is that planted acreages in both programs need to be reported by June 30.

Farmers Increase Grain Storage Space - Appomattox County farmers have applied and been approved for 20,600 bushels of grain storage space on their farms during the first 8 months of fiscal year 1980 through the farm facility loan program administered by ASCS. The value of the loans approved for this period totaled $37402.16.

Farmers who may be faced with storage problems for this year's crop can still obtain funds to build additional facilities or to expand present storage structures. The program covers drying and handling equipment as well as concrete and electrical wiring. ASCS also makes loans for solar grain drying systems and high-moisture forage silage storage facilities.

The program authorizes ASCS to loan farmers up to $100,000 with 15 percent interest. The previous maximum loan amount was $50,000 and prior to April 16, the interest rate on farm facility loans was 10.5 percent. The new rate is based on the cost of borrowing money from the U. S. Treasury.

ASCS Today

Farm storage facilities help the Nation's economy and to stabilize food and feed supplies by making possible more effective marketing of farm crops.

Producers who have suitable storage can exercise greater independence in their marketing operations and aid in strengthening market prices. They can also take full advantage of commodity loan programs and realize higher total income from their farm operations in years of excess production.

Additional details on the farm facility loan program are available from the ASCS office.

Funny play set

A humorous church play, "The Slabtown District Convention," will be presented at the Springfield Baptist Church June 14 at 6 p.m.

There will be lots of fun and laughter. All proceeds will go to the benefit of the church. Everyone is invited to attend the play.

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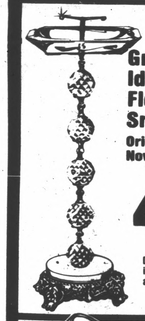

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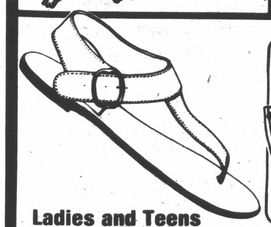

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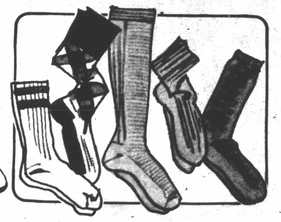

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Corn bug cited

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension agent

The European corn borer is one of the most destructive insects of corn. In this area of the state, we can expect two generations.

The adult moth in the first generation reaches peak activity in late May, early June. During daytime, the moth rests in moist, densely weedy areas near corn fields. As night falls, the female begins laying eggs. Her lifespan is 10 to 25 days, but she deposits an average of 400 eggs in that time. Fifteen to 20 cream colored eggs are laid on the underside of the corn leaf in an overlapping fashion, resembling the scales of a fish. A single egg is about the size of a pinhead. Seven days later the eggs hatch.

The South 40

Damage is done to the stalk, tassel, and ear shanks by the larvae. The plant is weakened and lodges readily. The tell-tale signs are leaves with a "shot-hole" appearance and sawdust-like frass on the plant.

The second-generation flights peak during the first two weeks in August and are generally the most damaging.

Control is wrapped up by several means:

1. After harvest disk and clean plow the fields to eliminate overwintering of the insect.
2. Eliminate heavy growth of weeds near corn fields and along fence rows.
3. Look for resistant varieties next year.
4. Apply chemicals only if damage is sufficient and then use proper chemical at correct rate at proper time.
5. Check fields weekly – treat when 50 percent to 75 percent plants show damage.
6. Three chemicals are recommended in Virginia – Furadan 10 percent G or 4F; Dyfonate 10 percent G; Thinet 15 percent G (first brood only.)
7. More specific directions are available from this office.

Notice: Last Thursday we were advised that European corn borer eggs are now hatching. Treatments for early corn may be needed before June 13. Corn less than 12 inches tall will probably not require treatment. Treat on a field by field report. All corn may not need treating. For this first generation damage should be near 75 percent before treating.

•••

Creep grazing can pay real dividends over the next 12 weeks. When calves have access to high quality pasture, their gains will go up .2 to .6 pounds per day over staying with the cows in low quality pastures. If the cows are on high quality pasture, obviously there would be little benefit from creep grazing, but this is rarely the situation in July and August.

•••

Many calves have been on the ground for at least 100 days – if they got a Ralgro implant early – it's time to catch them and put in another. This is a year to maximize gains.

•••

Farm prices and income in the early '80's will be given special attention during the statewide meeting on food and farm policy being held in Charlottesville June 25-26.

Policy issues and alternatives affecting producers of tobacco, corn, soybeans, milk and wheat will be discussed by Virginia Tech specialists. There will be other subjects that need to be addressed – U.S. food policy, farm profitability in an era of inflation and the complex issue of bargaining within agriculture.

We have more information on this important conference and anticipate several attending from Appomattox County.

PRECIPITATION:

Last Week	.12
This Month	.22
This Year	17.97

RECENTLY, AT THE May 1980 Parent Teachers Meeting of the Appomattox Primary School, two teachers were inducted into PTA Life-Membership. Honored were Mrs. Carolyn Coleman, second grade teacher, and Mrs. Nelwyn Smith, librarian. Life membership monies provide scholarship funds for prospective students interested in majoring in education.

4-H horses

Campbell County show slated

The Canter-Lope 4-H Riding of Campbell County is sponsoring an open horse show at the New London show grounds on 460 West of Lynchburg on Sunday, June 15. Raindate is June 22.

The show starts at 11:00 a.m. with the night show beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Trophies and ribbons will be awarded with a High Point Trophy and Youth Challenge Trophies in English, Western and Hunter Divisons.

All horses must have current negative coggins test. The Judge is Dr. Thomas Meacham.

For further information contact: Mrs. Joyce Matthew at 993-2712 after 4:00 p.m.

GROVER D. CHILDRESS of Appomattox County shows the six pound, four ounce largemouth bass he caught in a farm pond near Vera on June 1. He caught the fish on a plastic worm late in the evening. The bass is Childress' largest to date.

Summer school schedules set

The Administration and Guidance Counselors of Appomattox County High School have announced that summer school will begin on Monday, June 16, at 8 a.m. Summer school will continue for six weeks, ending on July 28. Classes will be conducted Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Proposed classes to be offered include English 8 - 12, World Geography, World History, U. S. History, and U. S. Government. Students may enroll for one new class, one repeat class, or two repeat classes. State requirements mandate that students attend a repeat class for a total of 75 hours and a new class for 150 hours.

If a student is absent for more than three class periods he will be automatically withdrawn from the course.

Students enrolling in summer school must pay tuition of $60.00 for a new class and $35.00 for each repeat class.

Textbook rental will be $4.00 per subject.

Students should use this opportunity to repeat required courses which will be offered. A class may be taken as a new subject for enrichment; however it cannot be used for acceleration. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the ACHS Guidance Counselors at 352-7146.

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Tips for your summer canning

By SHIRLEY W. WALTON
Extension agent

"Canning the fruits of your summer garden" is a super way to make use of bumper crops of anything from apples to zucchini. In this way you can enjoy fruits and vegetables into the winter or give them as holiday gifts.

It is not too early to begin asking us about how to handle green peas. I would like to share some information with you about shelled green beans and peas. Shell and wash beans and peas thoroughly. For the raw pack method, pack raw peas in jars, leaving ½ inch at top of pint jars and two inches at top of quart jars. Do not shake or press peas down. Add ½ teaspoon salt to pint jars and one teaspoon salt to quart jars. Cover peas with boiling water, leaving ½ inch head space. Remove any air bubbles in the jar by running a spatula or knife between the jar and food. Place jar lids on properly.

Process in a pressure canner at 10 pounds pressure, which is 240 degrees farenheit. Pint jars need to be processed for 35 minutes and quart jars for 40 minutes.

If you wish to use the hot pack method, cover shelled peas with boiling water and bring to a boil. Drain. Pack hot peas in jars, leaving an

[Continued on page 8]

Good news for homemakers

planting. Check the canning equipment you have on hand. If you have any doubts or questions concerning the accuracy of your gauge, you may bring your canner lid to the extension office to be tested. We test the lids free of charge at your convenience. Discard cracked or worn rubber sealers or nicked jars that could crack during processing.

If gift-giving is in mind, take advantage of the wide variety of decorative jars on the market. It is also a good idea to invest in strong tongs and plenty of potholders for easy handling of hot processed jars.

Pick out the recipes you like to use and list the canning ingredients you will need. Keep the list with you when shopping so you can take advantage of supermarket specials. When you begin canning, use only the freshest produce. Remember the quality of your canned goods will only be as good as the ingredients with which you begin. Be sure to discard blemished or rotted portions of fruits and vegetables and scrub them well to remove spray, soil and insects. This is a good step in safeguarding against spoilage in storage.

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